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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 17 November 1999, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Galuška ..... (Czech Republic)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 109: Advancement of women *(continued)* (A/C.3/54/L.89)

Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.89: Revitalization and strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

1. **Ms. Elliott** Guyana) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.89 and said that Afghanistan, Austria, Azerbaijan, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands and Spain had joined as sponsors. It was hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Agenda item 111: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions *(continued)* (A/C.3/54/L.91 and L.57)

Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.91: Follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States

2. **Mr. Nikiforov** (Russian Federation) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.91 on behalf of the original sponsors and Canada.

3. **Mr. Lordkipanidze** (Georgia) said his country wished to withdraw its sponsorship of draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.91.

Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.57: Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

4. **The Chairman** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

5. *Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.57 was adopted.*

Agenda item 107: Crime prevention and criminal justice *(continued)* (A/C.3/54/L.4, L.21/Rev.1, L.22/Rev.1 and L.88)

Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.21/Rev.1: High-level Political Signing Conference for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

6. **The Chairman** said that the revised draft resolution contained no programme budget implications

7. **Ms. Newell** (Secretary of the Committee) said that, according to the statement of conference servicing implications prepared by the Controller in response to operative paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the draft resolution, the estimates for conference servicing of the High-level Political Signing Conference, at full cost, amounted to $704,100. Those estimates were based on the assumption that the Conference would be held at Vienna. It was understood that any additional costs resulting from a change of the meeting venue would, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 40/243, be borne by the host Government. The extent to which the Organization's permanent capacity would need to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources could be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences for 2000-2001. However, provisions were made under section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, not only for meetings programmed at the time of budget preparation but also for meetings that would be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences were consistent with the pattern of meetings in past years. Consequently, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.21/Rev.1, no additional appropriation would be required under section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

8. **The Chairman** said that Cambodia, Colombia, Ghana, Haiti, Hungary, India, Nepal, the Netherlands and Ukraine had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

9. **Ms. Newell** (Secretary of the Committee) read out the revisions which had been announced by the United States of America during the introduction of the draft resolution.

10. *Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.21/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted.*

11. **Ms. de Armas Garcia** (Cuba) recalled that the Secretariat had earlier expressed concern that the Committee might be addressing funding questions which fell within the competence of the Fifth Committee. Cuba shared that concern and hoped that all draft resolutions put before the Third Committee would take it into account.

*Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.4: Draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the draft protocols thereto, and the amendments contained in document A/C.3/54/L.88**

12. **The Chairman** said that the amendments in document A/C.3/54/L.88 aimed to bring draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.4 in line with draft resolution

A/C.3/54/L.21/Rev.1. Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.4 had no programme budget implications.

13. **Ms. Newell** (Secretary of the Committee) read out a statement submitted by the Controller in which he drew attention to paragraph 12 of draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.4 as amended by document A/C.3/54/L.88. Resources for the activities of the Ad Hoc Committee had been included under Section 14, "Crime prevention and criminal justice", of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. In that context, the Controller also drew attention to part B VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248.

14. *Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.4, as amended through document A/C.3/54/L.88, was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.22/Rev.1: African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

15. **The Chairman** said that draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.22/Rev.1 contained no programme budget implications. The sponsor of the revised draft resolution should read "Algeria".

16. **Ms. Mesdoua** (Algeria), Vice-Chairman, speaking as the main sponsor of the draft resolution, made oral revisions to the text. In both the title and in paragraph 1, the words "United Nations" had been inserted before the word "African". In paragraph 4, the words "and non-governmental organizations" had been added after the words "Member States" and the word "to" (after the word "capacity") in the second line had been replaced by the word "and".

17. *Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.22/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted.*

18. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on crime prevention and criminal justice measures to eliminate violence against women in document A/54/69-E/1999/8.

19. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 116: Human rights questions *(continued)*

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments *(continued)* (A/C.3/54/L.8/Rev.1)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms *(continued)* (A/C.3/54/L.64, L.65, L.66, L.68, L.69, L.71/Rev.1, L.79, L.83 and L.84)

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives *(continued)* (A/C.3/54/L.82 and L.92)

Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.8/Rev.1: Question of the death penalty

20. **The Chairman** announced that the sponsors wished to withdraw draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.8/Rev.1.

21. *Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.8/Rev.1 was withdrawn.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.71/Rev.1: Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of human rights

22. **Mr. Oda** (Egypt) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.71/Rev.1 on behalf of the sponsors, who had been joined by Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, the Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Myanmar, Nigeria, Qatar, Rwanda, South Africa, the Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. In the second line of paragraph 1, the word "may" had been inserted before the word "affects".

Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.79: Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

23. **Mr. Mofokeng** (South Africa) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.79 on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and China.

Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.83: Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization

24. **Ms. Shestack** (United States of America), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.83, said that Central African Republic, Cyprus, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Greece, Kazakhstan, Lesotho, Malta, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Romania, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, Ukraine, Venezuela and Zambia had joined the sponsors. In order to accommodate the wishes of one sponsor, minor revisions had been made to the text. In the fourth preambular paragraph, the words "and conflict resolution" had been inserted after the words "national decision-making". In the thirteenth preambular paragraph, the word "December" had been inserted before "2000" and the phrase "in its role as coordinator of United Nations

electoral assistance" had been moved to paragraph 3, replacing words "of the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat".

Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.84: Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

25. **Mr. Mofokeng** (South Africa) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.84 on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and China.

Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.85: The right to development

26. **Mr. Mofokeng** (South Africa) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.85 on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and China.

Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.82: The situation of human rights in Kosovo

27. **Mr. Carle** (United States of America), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.82, said that the sponsors had been joined by Estonia, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand and San Marino. In the second line of the seventh preambular paragraph, the word "their" had been inserted between the words "from" and "full". The remainder of paragraph 9 after the word "standards" had been deleted.

28. The international community had responded vigorously and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Kosovo Force (KFOR) were working to build a society that respected the human rights of all residents. The draft resolution was a modest attempt to look to the future and show how all parties involved could redress past wrongs and build a successful, tolerant and multiethnic Kosovo. It also sought to guide UNMIK in meeting the challenges posed by many issues, which included illegal detainees, mine removal, the return of refugees and the building of democratic institutions. It was important to bear in mind that the destruction that had occurred, the appalling violations of the most basic human rights in Kosovo, and the need to alleviate suffering resulted from the egregious cynicism and criminal acts of the Government of President Slobodan Milosevic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Amendment contained in document A/C.3/54/L.92 to draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.60: Human rights situation in Iraq

29. **Mr. Rogov** (Russian Federation) introduced his delegation's amendment in document A/C.3/54/L.92, which sought to reflect the dire humanitarian situation in Iraq.

Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.64: United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, and public information activities in the field of human rights

30. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.64, which contained no programme budget implications.

31. **Ms. de Wet** (Namibia) said that Brazil, Cameroon, Croatia, Indonesia, Ireland, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Venezuela had joined the sponsors.

32. **The Chairman** noted that El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Guinea, Liberia, Madagascar, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Panama, the Republic of Moldova, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda and Ukraine wished to join the sponsors.

33. *Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.64 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.65: Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities

34. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.65, which contained no programme budget implications.

35. **Mr. Theuermann** (Austria) said that Cameroon and Sri Lanka had joined the sponsors.

36. *Draft resolution A/C.3.54/L.65 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.66: Human rights in the administration of justice

37. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.66, which contained no budget implications.

38. **Mr. Theuermann** (Austria) said that Cameroon, Croatia, the Philippines and Spain had joined the sponsors.

39. **The Chairman** noted that Equatorial Guinea and Panama had also joined the sponsors.

40. *Draft resolution A/C 3/54/L.66 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.68: Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons

41. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.68, which contained no programme budget implications.

42. **Ms. Eckey** (Norway) said that Belgium, Colombia, Croatia, Georgia, Japan, Thailand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had joined the sponsors.

43. **The Chairman** noted that San Marino, Sierra Leone, Spain, and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had also joined the sponsors.

44. *Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.68 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.69: Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

45. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.69, which contained no programme budget implications.

46. **Ms. Eckey** (Norway) said the sponsors of the draft resolution had been joined by Armenia, Colombia, Croatia, Malta and Thailand.

47. **The Chairman** said that Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Panama, the Republic of Moldova, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Uruguay had also joined the sponsors.

48. *Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.69 was adopted.*

49. **Mr. Sulaiman** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the Declaration on the Rights and Responsibilities of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms committed States not to intervene in the internal affairs of others and to avoid a selective approach to the rights set forth in the Declaration. The Declaration both granted rights to, and imposed duties upon, non-governmental organizations for the protection of individuals and peoples against flagrant violations of human rights. Non-governmental organizations had a duty to demonstrate full impartiality and objectivity in that regard.

50. While article 5 (c) of the Declaration affirmed the right of everyone to communicate with non-governmental organizations, it was important that the organizations concerned should be established in accordance with national law. His delegation would not accept any other kind of approach. During negotiations on the text, his country had stressed, in connection with article 13 of the Declaration, that while individuals and organizations had the right to solicit funding for the express purpose of promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, they had no established right to receive such funding. That principle should govern the receiving and allocation of funds and resources. Lastly, article 20 of the Declaration implied a reaffirmation of the principle of the sovereignty of States and of non-interference in their internal affairs, encouraging dialogue and understanding between peoples with a view to strengthening and protecting human rights.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.